

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(Currently amended): A method of making an aluminum reduction cell component having a stabilized surface that is wettable by molten aluminum, which comprises mixing together a carbonaceous material, TiB₂ and up to 25% by weight of an additive consisting of a combination of two intimately mixed compounds and baking the mixture into a cell component having a baked surface provided with pores, wherein said TiB₂ is used in an amount sufficient to make the baked surface wettable by molten aluminium, and wherein at least a first of the two compounds has a higher melting temperature than the baking temperature, whereby when the cell component is contacted with molten aluminum, the aluminium wets the baked surface, penetrates the pores therein, and reacts with the additive to form a dense phase ~~at the surface of the cell component, the dense phase having low solubility in aluminium~~ that seals the pores.

2.(Original): A method according to claim 1 wherein up to 10% by weight of the additive is mixed with the carbonaceous material and TiB₂.

3.(Original): A method according to claim 2 wherein the combination of two intimately mixed compounds is selected from a group of combinations consisting of: TiO₂ and B₂O₃, TiC and B₂O₃, Al₂O₃ and B₂O₃, TiO₂ and Na₂B₄O₇, TiO₂ and BN, TiO₂ and B₄C, BN and B₂O₃ and Al-C-Ti master alloy and B₂O₃.

4.(Original): A method according to claim 2 wherein the combination of two intimately mixed compounds comprises TiO₂ and B₂O₃.

5.(Original): A method according to claim 4 wherein the TiO₂ and B₂O₃ are mixed in a ratio of 40-50% by weight TiO₂ and 50-60% by weight B₂O₃.

6. (Original): A method according to claim 2 wherein the intimately mixed compounds comprise particles less than 200 μm in size.

7. (Original): A method according to claim 6 wherein the particles are less than 30 μm in size.

8. (Original): A method according to claim 2 wherein the carbonaceous material and TiB_2 are mixed in the ratio of 50% by weight of carbonaceous material and 40 to 49% of TiB_2 .

Claims 9 – 20 (Cancelled).

21.(New) A method according to claim 1, wherein 40% by weight or more of said TiB_2 is mixed with the carbonaceous material.